

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195524

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PORG, SF, WA

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: ESTABLISHMENT OF OBSERVER MISSION IN
WINDHOEK

REF: USUN 3074

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1. DEPARTMENT HAS FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON POINTS RAISED
REFTEL REGARDING POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF OBSERVER
MISSIONS IN WINDHOEK BY US AND OTHER MEMBERS OF CONTACT
GROUP.
2. USUN SHOULD INFORM OTHER MEMBERS OF CONTACT GROUP
THAT WE DO NOT INTEND TO ESTABLISH OBSERVER MISSION UNTIL
SOME TIME AFTER UNTAG MANDATE HAS BEEN APPROVED. WE

ASSUME THAT OVERLAP BETWEEN VISITS OF UNSYG'S SURVEY TEAM AND TDY PERSONNEL FROM EMBASSY PRETORIA WOULD POSE NO PROBLEM.

3. WE AGREE WITH CONTACT GROUP VIEW (PARA 4 REFTTEL) THAT MEMBERS OF GROUP SHOULD ADOPT LOWER PROFILE DURING THE TRANSITIONAL PERIOD. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD KEEP IN MIND THAT CONTACT GROUP HAS ASSURED ALL CONCERNED THAT WE ARE INVOLVED IN NAMIBIA FOR THE LONG RUN AND THAT WE DO

NOT PLAN TO FOLD OUR TENTS AS SOON AS THE UN BECOMES

INVOLVED. WE SHARE CONTACT GROUP'S VIEW THAT THERE WILL BE DISAGREEMENTS DURING TRANSITION PERIOD REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR PROPOSAL. LIKE IT OR NOT, THE CONTACT GROUP IN NEW YORK WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE RESOLUTION OF THESE DISAGREEMENTS. FOR THIS REASON, WE CONSIDER IT ESSENTIAL THAT THE U.S. HAVE THE CAPACITY TO OBTAIN FIRST HAND REPORTS ON DEVELOPMENTS AND NOT BE DEPENDENT UPON REPORTS FROM THE UN SR, SOUTH AFRICA OR SWAPO REGARDING POINTS AT ISSUE. OUR RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH UNIFIL CONFIRMS IMPORTANCE OF HAVING EFFECTIVE LIAISON WITH UN OPERATION, WHICH IN CASE OF NAMIBIA WE DO NOT BELIEVE WILL BE POSSIBLE FROM PRETORIA.

4. USUN CAN ASSURE OTHER MEMBERS OF CONTACT GROUP THAT
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WE DO NOT ENVISAGE OUR OBSERVER MISSION AS HAVING ROLE AS INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN UNSR AND SOUTH AFRICAN ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL, AND MISSION'S STAFF WILL BE SENSITIVE TO THE NEED TO AVOID ANY STEPS WHICH MIGHT COMPLICATE THIS CRUCIAL RELATIONSHIP.

5. WE AGREE THAT THERE IS A POTENTIAL LEGAL PROBLEM WITH MAKING A LIAISON OFFICE IN WINDHOEK A DEPENDENT OF EMBASSY PRETORIA. WE WOULD WELCOME THE CG COMING UP WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM TO WHICH ALL CG MEMBERS CAN CONFORM. MEANWHILE, WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HOW UN PLANS TO HANDLE MATTERS SUCH AS VISAS AND PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES FOR ITS PERSONNEL, BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN, IN NAMIBIA.

6. FOR BONN, LONDON, OTTAWA AND PARIS: IF ASKED, YOU SHOULD REVIEW OUR ARGUMENTATION WITH FOREIGN OFFICES TO AVOID ANY CONFUSION AS TO OUR INTENTIONS AND OBJECTIVES IN ESTABLISHING LIAISON OFFICE IN WINDHOEK. VANCE

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